

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2005, and in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination being filed herewith. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1 – 13 stand for consideration, wherein claims 1, 5, 8, 11 and 12 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. All amendments to the claims are supported throughout the application, including but not limited to Figures 4, 7 and 8, and their corresponding descriptions in the specification. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima (US Patent No. 6,906,767) in view of Kimura et al. (US Patent No. 6,602,596). The Examiner also rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima '767 in view of Kimura '596 and further in view of Kuroiwa et al. (US Patent No. 6,317,180). Further, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of being unpatentable over Iijima '767 in view of Kimura '596 and further in view of Satoh et al. (US Patent No. 5,847,795). Applicants have carefully considered the above-outlined rejections, and hereby respectfully traverse.

The present invention as now recited in claim 1 is directed to a liquid crystal display device, comprising: a transmissive type liquid crystal display panel which sandwiches a liquid crystal layer between a pair of substrates; and a backlight arranged at a back face of the liquid crystal display panel and has a light source and a reflector, wherein the liquid crystal display device is capable of performing as a transmissive display which uses light from the light source and as a reflective display which uses external light incident from a front face side of the liquid crystal display panel by reflecting the external light on the reflector. The improvement of the invention is characterized in that a polarizer is arranged between the

back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the backlight, the polarizer being formed to absorb polarized light having a predetermined polarization direction. At least two or more light diffusion layers are arranged between the back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the reflector of the backlight; the at least two or more light diffusion layers include a first diffusion layer and a second diffusion layer, and a prism sheet is arranged between the first diffusion layer and the second diffusion layer.

As recited in claim 5, the present invention is directed to a liquid crystal display device, comprising: a transmissive type liquid crystal display panel which sandwiches a liquid crystal layer between a pair of substrates, a light source, a light guide body which is arranged at a back face side of the liquid crystal display panel and on which light from the light source is incident, and a reflector which is arranged at a back face of the light guide body, wherein the liquid crystal display device is capable of performing as a transmissive display which uses light from the light source and as a reflective display which uses external light incident from a front face side of the liquid crystal display panel by reflecting the external light on the reflector. The improvement of the invention is characterized in that a polarizer is arranged between the back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the backlight, the polarizer being formed to absorb polarized light having a predetermined polarization direction. At least two or more light diffusion layers are arranged between the back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the light guide body, the at least two or more light diffusion layers including a first diffusion layer and a second diffusion layer, and a prism sheet is arranged between the first diffusion layer and the second diffusion layer.

Among the main features of the present invention, at least two or more light diffusion layers are arranged between the back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the light guide body, the at least two or more light diffusion layers including a first diffusion layer and a second diffusion layer, and a prism sheet is arranged between the first diffusion layer and the second diffusion layer.

In contrast, the primary reference of Iijima '767 fails to disclose or suggest the "at least two or more light diffusion layers are arranged between the back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the reflector of the backlight", as now recited in at least claims 1 and 5.

The secondary reference of Kimura '596 merely discloses multiple diffusion layers which are stacked two or three diffusion layers 1 close to each other, as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of this reference. That is, Kimura '596 does not disclose a separated arrangement of

the first diffusion layer and the second diffusion layer, as recited in at least claims 1 and 5. Thus, Kimura '596 cannot and does not disclose or suggest at least one other member which is arranged between the two or three diffusion layers 1.

Accordingly, Kimura does not disclose or suggest "at least two or more light diffusion layers are arranged between the back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the reflector of the backlight, the at least two or more light diffusion layers include a first diffusion layer and a second diffusion layer, and a prism sheet is arranged between the first diffusion layer and the second diffusion layer" as now recited in at least claims 1 and 5.

Since Iijima '767 and Kimura '596 both individually fail to show or suggest each and every feature recited in the claims as amended, their combination cannot then render those same features obvious to one of skill in the art. The remaining tertiary references are merely cited for specific features recited in the dependent claims, and do not provide any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that would make up for the deficiencies in Iijima '767 and Kimura '596. In other words, even if all the cited references were combined, that combination would still fall far short of rendering obvious, among other features, "at least two or more light diffusion layers are arranged between the back-face-side substrate of the pair of substrates and the reflector of the backlight, the at least two or more light diffusion layers include a first diffusion layer and a second diffusion layer, and a prism sheet is arranged between the first diffusion layer and the second diffusion layer" as now recited in at least claims 1 and 5.

Rather, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the prior art of record.

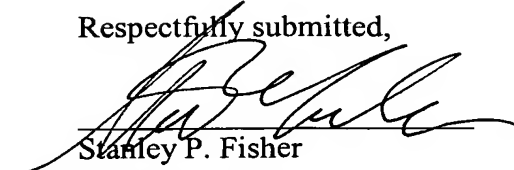
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to

contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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